

REMARKS

In the action of August 24, 2004, the examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4 and 14 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Licht; rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9 and 14 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Leggett et al; rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 14 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by A-Yan; rejected claims 3 and 11-13 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over A-Yan in view of Tesch; or, alternatively, Leggett et al in view of Tesch; rejected claims 7, 8 and 10 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable by Leggett et al; and rejected claims 7 and 9 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over A-Yan.

Applicant has amended the claims to specify that the majority of channels are divided into just two longitudinal portions of different lengths by a closing element and that the two longitudinal portions of each such channel are each open along their entire length to receive filling therein. This distinguishes claim 1 over all of the cited references. Leggett shows a plurality of compartments, all the same size. The same is true for A-Yan. Further, none of the references show portion lengths which vary between adjacent channels, such that the portions of adjacent channels overlap longitudinally, thereby producing a "bricklayer" structure in the adjacent channels for the bedding article, as shown, for example, in Figures 2-3.

Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over the applied references. Since claims 2, 3 and 6-14 are dependent upon claim 1, those claims are also allowable. Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled.

This is to request a two-month extension of time. Enclosed is the required fee of \$450.00. Any additional fees can be charged to deposit account 07-1900.

Respectfully submitted,
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